

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TUNIS 09180 281613Z

ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 MCE-00 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00

IGA-02 AID-05 EB-08 SS-15 INR-07 /055 W

-----023595 281653Z /43

P 281448Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9381

INFO SE CDEF ISA/DSAA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE ECJ4/7

DA-DALO-ILM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 9180

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS TS

SUBJ: ADDITIONAL MISSILE PURCHASE BY GOT

REF: A. STATE 292653, DTG 080039Z DEC 77

B. DA DALO-ILM, DTG 222130Z DEC 76

1. AMBASSADOR AND CHUSLOT MET WITH TUNISIAN SECDEF FARHAT, CSS GENERAL EXCHEIKH, AND MOD SECRETARY GENERAL ALOUINI ON 28 DECEMBER.

2. WE FIRST INFORMED FARHAT OF THE VERY GOOD NEWS CONTAINED IN REFTEL B, TO WIT, THAT THE PRICE OF REPLACEMENT MIM72A MISSILES WOULD BE \$55,903 EACH DELIVERED IN 27 MONTHS. WE FURTHER UNDERScoreD THAT PRICE AS BEING ESSENTIALLY THE SAME AS PAID FOR EACH OF THE 328 MIM72AS UNDER THE ORIGINAL CHAPARRAL CONTRACT OF NOVEMBER 1976.

3. I BRIEFLY OUTLINED TO FARHAT THE REASONS FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO SELL THE TUNISIANS THE MIM72C AS INDICATED REFTEL A.

4. FARHAT WAS MOST APPRECIATIVE OF THE LOW PRICE AT WHICH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TUNIS 09180 281613Z

WE WERE OFFERING THE MIM72A. HE WENT ON TO SAY HOWEVER, THAT HE FELT THAT THE ORIGINAL 328 MIM72AS PURCHASED IN NOVEMBER 1976, COUPLED WITH THE FUTURE ACQUISITION OF AN ANTI-AIRCRAFT CANNON SYSTEM AND THE PURCHASE OF THE BLOWPIPE FROM THE BRITISH WOULD MEET TUNISIA'S AIR DEFENSE NEEDS FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. THIS WAS PARTICULARLY TRUE, FARHAT FELT, CONSIDERING THE LIMITED NUMBER OF OPERATIONAL AIR-

CRAFT TUNISIA'S NEIGHBORS WOULD BE ABLE TO MUSTER AS AN EVENTUAL THREAT. CONTRADICTING HIMSELF, FARHAT WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE WAS MOST DISAPPOINTED THAT TUNISIA COULD NOT PURCHASE ADDITIONAL MIM72CS. BOTH FARHAT AND GENERAL EXCHEIKH SEEMED TO FEEL RATHER STRONGLY THAT TUNISIA SHOULD KEEP PUSHING FOR THE MIM72C IN THE OUT-YEARS AND THAT THE USG WOULD EVENTUALLY BE ABLE TO SELL THAT IMPROVED TYPE TO TUNISIA, DESPITE OUR DENIALS TO THE CONTRARY.

5. WE REITERATED TO FARHAT AND GENERAL EXCHEIKH THAT EVEN SUPPOSING WE COULD EVENTUALLY SELL THE TYPE C MISSILE TO TUNISIA (WHICH WE CERTAINLY COULD NOT PROMISE), THE PRICE WOULD PROBABLY BE AT LEAST DOUBLE THAT WHICH THEY WOULD BE PAYING FOR REPLACEMENT MIM72AS NOW. WE FURTHER EMPHASIZED THAT THE TYPE A MISSILE IS A GOOD DETERRENT WEAPON. RECOGNIZING THESE FACTS, FARHAT SAID THAT TUNISIA WOULD CONCENTRATE HER EFFORTS AND FMS CREDITS TOWARDS THE PURCHASE OF THE TOW ANTI-TANK WEAPONS TO ENSURE AN ADEQUATE GROUND DEFENSE.

6. CHUSLOT FEELS THAT WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO DISCUSS WITH MOD THE PURCHASE OF 120 MIM72AS THAT MOD HAD PREVIOUSLY CALCULATED ESSENTIAL TO FULFILL THEIR TRAINING REQUIREMENTS. THE PRICE AVAILABLE NOW WILL CERTAINLY NEVER BE AVAILABLE TO TUNISIA AGAIN. WE HAD PREVIOUSLY COMPUTED SEVERAL ALTERNATIVE WAR RESERVE STOCKAGE LEVELS AND AHS RECOMMENDED

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TUNIS 09180 281613Z

THAT 328 MIM72AS WERE SUFFICIENT IF AN ADEQUATE NUMBER OF MISSILES FOR TRAINING WERE PURCHASED. GENERAL EXCHEIKH SEEMED TO THINK THAT A TOTAL 478 MISSILES INCLUDING TRAINING REQUIREMENTS WOULD SUFFICE.

7. IF FARHAT'S DECISION IS FIRM WE WILL NOT PUSH THE MATTER FURTHER. WE WOULD RATHER SETTLE THE MATTER NOW, HOWEVER, THAN LEAVE TO OUR SUCCESSORS SOME YEARS HENCE THE CHALLENGE OF RESURRECTING THE MIM72C.

MULCAHY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MISSILES, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TUNIS09180
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770483-0578
Format: TEL
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771210/aaaaahxj.tel
Line Count: 104
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d3e520fb-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 292653
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30-Aug-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 102560
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ADDITIONAL MISSILE PURCHASE BY GOT
TAGS: MASS, TS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d3e520fb-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009